

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 24, 2008, and the Advisory Action mailed February 3, 2009, have been received and carefully considered. Applicants respectfully submitted amendments in the Amendment/Response dated January 26, 2009. The amendments and arguments submitted in Applicants' January 26, 2009 Amendment/Response are incorporated herein by reference. In this response, claims 69 and 73 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Entry of the amendments to claims 69 and 73 in the current Amendment/Response, as well as amendments to claims 26, 54, 63, and 64 in the Amendment/Response dated January 26, 2009, is respectfully requested. Reconsideration of the current rejections in the present application is also respectfully requested based on the following remarks and the remarks contained within the January 26, 2009 Amendment/Response.¹

¹ As Applicants' remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicants' silence as to assertions made by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such rejections (e.g., assertions regarding dependent claims, whether a reference constitutes prior art, whether references are legally combinable for obviousness purposes) is not a concession by Applicants that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicants reserve the right to analyze and dispute such in the future.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

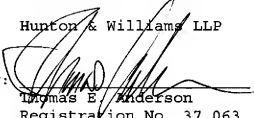
Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to the same deposit account.

U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/780,004
Attorney Docket No.: 68865.001005
Client Reference No.: S07-4001-2C

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 24, 2009